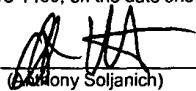


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV336629309US, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: 9/4/03

Signature:



(Anthony Soljanich)

Docket No.: 249212021000
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Christopher RATHWEG

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: TAPE CARTRIDGE SOFT LOAD SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: